



Connecting-Engaging-Growing

Elwood Community School Corporation

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Elwood Community School Corporation **TITLE I - PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

In recognition that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher, and that the parents' continued involvement is essential for the success of the child(ren), Elwood Community School Corporation is committed to building strong parent-school partnerships. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Families play an extremely important role as children's first teacher. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their child's/children's success at every step along the way. In keeping with this partnership, Elwood Community School Corporation is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. We want our students to experience success with the state content and performance standards. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance provided through the district's Title I program. Our goal is a home-school partnership that will help all students in the district successfully attain high standards.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

The Elwood Community School Corporation district-level family Advisory Council consists of Title I parents, teachers, members of the community, principals, and the Director of Special Services. This council:

- Developed our district Family Involvement Policy
- Will work to see that the policy is carried out, and
- Will be responsible for evaluating and revising the policy as necessary.

Annual Meeting for Title I Parents

Each school year, a letter will be sent home to all parents/guardians of children enrolled at Elwood Elementary School which addresses the qualifications of teachers in the building and the nature of instruction and support services provided by Title I. All parents will be invited to attend meetings at school for discussion of specifics concerning the instructional objectives and methods of the program. Follow-up efforts will be made through emails, telephone calls, and direct mailings.

Staff-Parent Communication

Parents/guardians will be provided information on school performance, student's individual assessments and school curriculum. Elwood Community School Corporation values the participating role of the family in the educational process and recognizes the benefit of communication between home and school. Communication with parents/guardians will include phone calls and conferences. To bring the home-school connection full circle, families are also encouraged to initiate contact with school staff.

Indiana Academic Standards

Indiana Academic Content Standards can be accessed here-

<https://www.in.gov/doe/students/indiana-academic-standards/> Parents/guardians are encouraged to ask any questions they have in relation to standards to teachers and principal.

Parent Literacy Support

Each Title I school in the Elwood Community School Corporation will provide literacy support activities for parents/guardians and children. These activities will include, but are not limited to phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary.

School Staff Education

School staff are provided on-going education based on feedback from parent evaluations as a part of the development of each school's School Improvement Plan. These trainings will be provided during staff meetings and grade level collaboration, along with book studies, newsletters and participation in professional conferences.

Parent-School-Student Compacts/Growth Target Reports

Elwood Community School Corporation shares responsibility with parents/guardians for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact. Compacts are discussed at Parent-Teacher conferences. Parents, students, and staff review the compact and sign each year. Additionally, each student and parent reviews performance data with the classroom teacher to set growth goals and strategies for attaining those goals for the current school year. Progress in meeting those goals is again reviewed at the close of the year.

Evaluation

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent involvement program, and parents/guardians will be asked for their input. The evaluation assessment will measure parent involvement each year and determine needs for next year.

Strategies for Building Staffs' and Parents' Capacity for Involvement

Elwood Community School Corporation values the importance of parental involvement. There are many ways in which families have an opportunity for involvement in their child's educational pursuits. This requires on-going communication between school and home, which includes frequent correspondence, home visits (as needed) and parent teacher conferences. Other ways for family involvement include parents/guardians acting in the role of volunteers within the school, participation in Parent-Teacher Conferences, participating in PTO activities, and enacting the Home-School Compact. Using PowerSchool, parents can access their children's grades. The Everyday Math website can be used to locate math support for home use. In addition, opportunities are provided for families to grow and develop in many areas through workshops and family activities. Specific Parent Involvement Activities identified for this year are as follows (If Covid-19 is not a factor.):

- July/August – Back to School Bash/ Meet the Teacher Night
- September – Grandparents' Night/ Parent Teacher Conferences
- October – Fall Parties
- November – Caring Project/ Fall Festival
- December – Santa Night with an Emphasis on Literacy / Santa Shop / Winter Parties
- February – Valentine's Activities
- March – Bingo for Books with Reading/Literacy Tips / Spring Carnival
- April – Blast Off to Kindergarten
- May – Awards Day / Field Day/ Day of Caring

Examples of Family Engagement at EES: (When COVID-19 is not a factor.)

- Dental Safari Days
- Christmas Help/Parties
- Dress Up Days
- Elwood Public Library Partnership
- End of Year Celebrations
- Enrollment Days
- Father/Daughter Dance
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Firemen Safety Visits
- Food 4 U Program
- Free Physicals/Mad. Co. Health Dept.
- Fund-raisers
- Grandparents' Night
- Hope Center Food Pantry
- Newsletters/Calendars/Menus
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Pre-K Buddies from United Way
- PTO Organization
- Read Across America Week Activities
- Red Gold Run to Crush Hunger
- Santa Night – Winter Celebrations
- School Parties
- Shop with a Cop
- Social Media Posts
- Spring Carnival
- Telehealth Program – See the doctor through technology
- Weekly Emails to Parents